

12 December 2023

09:00-18:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 22 December 2023)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, María José Frutos Fernández, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husoy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen and Matthew Wright
- EFSA: Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Dino Borana, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Gabriele Gagliardi, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Vasanth Palaniappan, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Wim Mennes, vice chair of the FAF Panel, chaired the present meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Maged Younes, Peter Fuerst and Karl-Heinz Engel for the whole duration of the plenary.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 41st FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 14-15 November 2023, in Parma.

The minutes of the [41st Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 6th December 2023.

5. Report on written procedure

Not applicable

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption



6.1 Draft scientific opinion on the specifications of the food additive Quillaia extract (E 999) ([EFSA-Q-2022-00541](#)) and on the proposed extensions of use ([EFSA-Q-2022-00475](#); [EFSA-Q-2022-00476](#))

The FAF Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.2 Draft scientific opinion on the safety in use of soy leghemoglobin from genetically modified *Pichia pastoris* yeast as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2022-00031](#))

The advice from the FAF Panel was sought with respect to the approach to be followed for the safety assessment the proposed new food additive soy leghemoglobin from genetically modified *Pichia pastoris* yeast. The food additive application is being assessed in parallel with a request for placing on the market of Soy Leghemoglobin produced from genetically modified *Pichia pastoris* by the GMO Panel under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (EFSA-Q-2019-00651).

The preliminary assessment of the dossier by the WG Food Additives Applications, currently on hold while awaiting submission of additional data, was presented to the Panel.

The Panel discussed the different options and provided its advice on the approach for the conclusions on the safety of this food additive, which will be followed for the drafting of the scientific opinion by the Working Group.

7. Update on new Mandates

- New questions received since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	2023-00749	Application for the modification of the food additive enzymatically produced steviol glycosides (E 960c)	23.11.23

- Valid questions since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
FA	2022-00378	Rice bran extract	05.12.2023
FA	2022-00379	Ground rice hull	05.12.2023

- Withdrawn questions since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Withdrawal date
FA	2021-00595	Buffered vinegar	27.11.2023

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC



8.1 Scientific Committee

None

8.2 European Commission

None

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

Feedback was provided by the FAF Panel WG Food Additives Applications on some of the ongoing assessments concerning proposed new food additives obtained from natural sources and the ongoing experience and challenges encountered with the assessment of this type of food additives that would need to be reflected in the ongoing update of the 2012 Food Additives Guidance.

Closely related to this topic, the publication of the EFSA Technical report on "Principles that could be applicable to the safety assessment of the use of mixtures of natural origin to manufacture food contact materials"¹ was noted by the Panel. EFSA staff explained that the technical report should be tabled for discussion at one of the upcoming meetings of the EFSA Scientific Committee in 2024.

9. Any other business

The FAF Panel was presented with a tentative workplan for the coming year 2024, including the planned dates of the next plenary meetings.

¹ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8409>